### 2015 GENERAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

Following is a summary of general land & water conservation activities carried out by the Land Conservation Committee during 2015:

- Sponsored Twelfth Annual Dodge County Small Packet Tree Sale Program; 244 landowners purchased 23,000 trees.
- Cooperated with DNR Forester in renting out two tree planters to two landowners who planted 1,400 trees.
- Continued administration of Dodge County Animal Waste Storage and Nutrient Utilization Ordinance.
   Issued permits and assisted landowners with projects on eight different farms.
- Conducted county-wide cropland soil erosion survey.
- Continued farmer network for those interested in learning about and trying intensive rotational grazing on their farms.
- Provided soil maps and soil data to many farmers, landowners, crop consultants, and other land users.
- Prepared annual workload analysis and applied for state grants to carry out programs; received \$143,249 in state aid for technical services provided.
- In cooperation with staff from the University of Wisconsin Extension Service, conducted one workshop to train 11 farmers on how to practice proper nutrient management on their farms. Also, conducted one workshop to re-certify 70 farmers for preparing their own nutrient management plans. Also, trained 6 farmers on use of nutrient management computer program called SNAP-Plus.
- Provided technical, financial & educational assistance to 340 landowner/citizen contacts.

"Our livelihood is intimately tied to the food we eat, water we drink, and places where we recreate. That's why we have to promote responsibility and conservation when it comes to our natural resources." (Mark Udall)



FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM:

The Dodge County Land Conservation Committee administers the conservation compliance provisions of the Farmland Preservation Program. Some of the activities in 2015 include:

- Prepared (new and revised) soil conservation plans for 12,021 acres of enrolled cropland.
- Monitored status of 159 conservation plans covering 22,720 cropland acres for compliance with standards.
- Obtained annual crop report and compliance certification statement from 558 program participants (80,762 cropland acres).
- Certified High Residue Management practices on 5,737 new cropland acres.
- Reduced soil erosion by 1,533 ton from practice application on cropland.

### NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING ACTIVITIES:

- Documented over 2,200 acres of nutrient management plans prepared under Dodge County's Land & Water Resource Management cost share program.
- Documented over 28,000 acres of nutrient management plans prepared under Dodge County's Manure Storage & Nutrient Utilization Ordinance.
- Documented over 120,000 acres of cropland under Nutrient Management Plans in 2015.



LAND & WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Dodge County's Land and Water Resource Management Plan was updated in 2012. The new 10-year plan was approved by the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Board on December 4, 2012; and then approved by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors on January 15, 2013.

Goals established under the new Dodge County Land and Water Resource Management Plan include the following:

- Protect and improve the quality of Dodge County's ground water resources, surface water resources, and soil resources
- Protect Dodge County land and water resources from adverse impacts caused by cropland drainage and wetland alterations
- Protect Dodge County agricultural interests from wildlife crop damage
- Increase farmer, rural landowner, and general public awareness and knowledge of land and water resource issues in Dodge County
- Encourage environmentally desirable types of land use conversions

Key Land & Water Plan Accomplishments in 2015 By All Conservation Agencies/Groups

by An Conscivation Agencies/Groups						
Planned	Annual	2015 Amount				
<u>Activity</u>	Goal Amount	<u>Achieved</u>				
Residue Management	5,000 Acres	6,671 Acres				
Cover Crops Planted	1,000 Acres	1,621 Acres				
<b>Gully Erosion Practices</b>	15,000 Feet	6,744 Feet				
Riparian Grass Buffers	100 Acres	6 Acres				
Manure Runoff Control	4 Farms	1 Farms				
Idle Rural Well Closing	20 Wells	34 Wells				
Rotational Grazing	100 Acres	0 Acres				
Wetland Restorations	200 Acres	42 Acres				
Woodland Plantings	200 Acres	21 Acres				
Grassland Plantings	100 Acres	104 Acres				
Nutrient Management	10,000 Acres	5,808 Acres				
Cropland Protected by	10,000 Acres	12,877 Acres				
Conservation						

Other Land & Water Plan Accomplishments in 2015

- Committed \$36,118 of state funding to cost share agreements to install various land & water conservation practices on Dodge County farms and properties.
- Spent \$42,161 in conservation practice cost sharing with 12 Dodge County landowners in 2015.



### WILDLIFE CROP DAMAGE ABATEMENT AND CLAIMS PROGRAM

The Dodge County Land Conservation Committee participated in the Wisconsin Wildlife Crop Damage Abatement and Claims Program in 2015. The program seeks to abate the damage being done to county agricultural crops by deer, geese and turkeys, and provides compensation payments for damages exceeding \$500.00 per year up to a maximum claim of \$10,000. Some of the major activities of 2015 include:

- Contracted with USDA-APHIS to carry out day to day program activities.
- Twenty-five landowners were assisted with damage abatement.
- Received 6 claims for assessed crop damage of \$5,036; processed damage payments to 4 crop producers for \$1,490.71.
- Seven producers were issued deer shooting permits; 17 producers were issued shooting permits for geese.
- Processed 22 deer under the venison donation program resulting in 1,244 pounds of venison donated to food pantries.

"Man was the last of creation but was given the duty to care for the earth and all other created living creatures". (Lailah Gifty Akita)



# INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES (GENERAL):

- Informed general public of Dodge County's manure storage ordinance through newspaper articles.
- Maintained and enhanced Land Conservation Department web site.
- Distributed 12 separate news releases regarding various land & water conservation issues to Dodge County news media outlets.
- Provided two news articles for publication in one issue of the Dodge County Farm Bureau Newsletter.
- Provided one-on-one educational service to county farmers and landowners on an as-needed basis.
- Co-sponsored Cover Crop and Soil Health Field Day on the David Rinzel Farm, Knowles.

"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land. We shall never achieve harmony with the land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice and liberty for people. In these higher aspirations the important thing is not to achieve, but to strive." (Aldo Leopold)

# COOPERATING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

### **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

(Forestry Accomplishments through September 2015)

•	Land Planted to Trees	=	21 Acres
•	Managed Forest Law Plans	=	0 Acres

### (Wildlife Habitat Improvement Accomplishments)

•	Prescribed Burns	=	193 Acres
•	Oak Savanna Establishment	=	11 Acres
•	Terrestrial Invasive Species Contro	1 =	65 Acres

#### (Groundwater Protection Accomplishments)

• Rural Well Filling & Sealing = 34 Wells

# USDA - NATURAL RESOURCES

	CONSERVATION SERVICE		
•	Cover Crops	=	356 Acres
•	Water/Sediment Control Basin	=	1 Each
•	Nutrient Management	=	1,487 Acres
•	Grass Waterways	=	1 Acres
•	Manure Storage	=	2 Each
•	Wetland Restoration	=	42 Acres
	Grade Stabilization Structure	=	1 Each

## USDA – FARM SERVICES AGENCY

CRP Filter Strips = 6 Acres
 Grassland Plantings = 104 Acres

131 Landowners applied 134 new practices



Five landowners installed new manure storage systems; Five landowners closed old manure storage systems



Certified 1265 acres of new cover crops on 26 farms



Conservation Planning: res Farmland Preservation Conse

13,699 Acres Farmland Preservation Conservation Plans4,321 Acres Nutrient Management Conservation Plans8,084 Acres of Manure Spreading Restriction Maps

6,671 New Acres High Residue Management



7,936 Cropland Acres Protected by Conservation Practice Application 1,951 Tons Soil Saved by Conservation Practice Application 375 Ton Reduction in sediments Delivered to Water 453 Pound Reduction in Phosphorus Delivered

"Conservation is the application of common sense to the common problems for the common good."

(Gifford Pinchot)

# THE DODGE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report is provided compliments of the Dodge County Land Conservation Committee. Members of the Committee include: Ed Nelson, Chairman; Dale Macheel, Vice Chairman and FSA Representative; Gerald Adelmeyer, Secretary; William Foley, Lake District Representative; Howard Kriewald, Larry Bischoff and William Muche, members.

2015 KEY CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY